

Course Title: Medical Experimentation: Evidence, Investigators and Ethics

Instructor: Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, PhD and Sari J. Siegel, PhD

Online Meetings: Wednesday, 5-6pm, Feb 12-March 19, online (Zoom)

Course Description: This course will explore the history of medical experimentation to understand the interplay between scientific knowledge, medical practice, and society. Focusing on the period after 1800, the course will examine the nature of experiments and evidence in medicine; the role of investigators and of society in the production of experimental knowledge; and ethical breaches in medical experiments. The course will feature guest speakers discussing laboratory-based and clinical research at Cedars-Sinai.

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the evolution of medical experimentation and evidence in western medicine
2. Appreciate the relationship between medical experiments and the broader contexts in which they are conducted
3. Apply historical perspectives to understand the current state of medical experimentation, its challenges, and anticipate its future.

Course Topics and Schedule (subject to revision)

Week 1. Introduction: Defining Medical Experiments

Readings: Selections from primary sources; Selections from C. Bernard, *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine*

Week 2. Experiments and the Nature of Evidence

Readings: Selections from primary sources; Selections from S. Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*; S. Timmermans and A. Mauck, "The promises and pitfalls of evidence-based medicine"

Week 3. Experimental Lives: The Role of Investigators and Their Contexts

Readings: Selections S. Luria, *A Slot Machine, A Broken Test Tube: An Autobiography*; Selections from R. Selye, *Salvador Luria: An Immigrant Biologist in Cold War America*; D. Todes, "Introduction," *Ivan Pavlov: A Russian Life in Science*

Week 4. Maleficence without Benevolence: Infamous Medical Experiments

Readings: Selections from primary sources; Selections from S. Rubinfeld and S. Benedict, eds., *Human Subjects Research after the Holocaust*

Week 5. Perspectives From the Bench at Cedars-Sinai– Guest Speakers: TBA

Week 6. Perspectives From the Bedside at Cedars-Sinai – Guest Speakers: TBA